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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JESSE H. JONES, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. GALT, Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)

PHILIP M. HAUSER, Assistant Director



SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

# AGRICULTURE

## TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS

Reports on Agriculture in the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii;  
and the following Possessions: Guam, American Samoa,  
Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States

*Bureau of the Census  
Library*

Prepared under the supervision of

**ZELLMER R. PETTET**

Chief Statistician for Agriculture

UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1943

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# BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAPT, *Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)*

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, *Director (Retired January 31, 1941)*

PHILIP M. HAUSER, *Assistant Director*

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**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

*Washington, D. C., January 12, 1943.*

**SIR:**

I transmit herewith the Sixteenth Census volume on Agriculture for the Territories and Possessions of the United States. Separate reports were prepared for the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii; and for the following Possessions: Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States. These separate reports are bound together to make up this volume.

Provision for the 1940 Census of Agriculture in the Territories and Possessions was made in the Act providing for the Fifteenth Decennial Census which was approved on June 18, 1929. In compliance with Section 1 of the Act, census of Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands of the United States were taken by the Governors of the respective areas in accordance with plans prescribed by the Director of the Census. The census of each of the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii was taken by a local supervisor appointed upon the recommendation of the Governor. An official of the Bureau of the Census was designated by the Director of the Census to supervise the census of Puerto Rico.

The census of agriculture for the Territories and Possessions, except Alaska, related to April 1, 1940, with production of livestock and crops reported for 1939. October 1, 1939 was fixed as the enumeration date in Alaska, with production reports related to a 12-month period ending on that date.

The compilation of the statistics and the preparation of this volume were under the supervision of Z. R. Pettet, Chief Statistician for Agriculture, with the assistance of Sherman S. Slick, Assistant Chief Statistician, Warder B. Jenkins, Chief of Technical Staff, and Ray Hurley, Principal Statistician in Charge of Analysis.

Respectfully,

**J. C. CAPT,**

*Director of the Census*

**Hon. JESSE H. JONES**

*Secretary of Commerce*

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## SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

### Reports on Agriculture, Irrigation, and Drainage

Volume I.—Statistics by Counties for Farms and Farm Property, with Related Information for Farms and Farm Operators; Livestock and Livestock Products; and Crops (six parts).

Part 1.—New England, Middle Atlantic, and  
East North Central States  
2.—West North Central States  
3.—South Atlantic States

Part 4.—East South Central States  
5.—West South Central States  
6.—Mountain and Pacific States

Volume II.—Statistics by Counties for Value of Farm Products, Farms Classified by Major Source of Income, and Farms Classified by Total Value of Products (three parts).

Part 1.—Northern States

Part 2.—Southern States

Part 3.—Western States

Volume III.—General Report—Statistics by Subjects for the United States, Geographic Divisions, and States (one volume).

Chapter I.—Farms and Farm Property  
II.—Size of Farms  
III.—Color, Tenure, and Race of  
Farm Operators  
IV.—Farm Mortgages and Farm  
Taxes  
V.—Work off Farm, Age, and  
Years on Farm

Chapter VI.—Cooperation, Labor, Expenditures,  
Machinery, Facilities, and  
Residence  
VII.—Livestock and Livestock Products  
VIII.—Field Crops and Vegetables  
IX.—Fruits and Nuts, and  
Horticultural Specialties  
X.—Value of Farm Products

United States Summary Bulletins.—Statistics for the United States, Geographic Divisions, and States in condensed form as follows:

First Series Summary—Number of Farms, Uses of Land, Values, Principal Classes of Livestock and Livestock Products; and Specified Crops Harvested.

Second Series Summary—Farm Mortgages, Taxes, Labor, Expenditures, and Miscellaneous Farm Information; Goats and Mohair; and Fruits, Vegetables, and Minor Crops.

Third Series Summary—Value of Farm Products, Farms Classified by Major Source of Income, and Farms Classified by Total Value of Products.

Special Poultry Report.—Statistics by Geographic Divisions and States for Poultry of All Kinds on Hand and Raised; by Counties for Chickens and Chicken Egg Production by Number of Chickens on Hand; and by Counties for Farms Reporting Chickens and Turkeys Raised by Numbers Raised (one volume).

Cows Milked and Dairy Products.—Number of Cows Milked, Milk Produced, Disposition of Dairy Products, and Number of Cows Kept Mainly for Milk Production, Classified by Number of Cows Milked, by Counties; with Related Data for Other Classes of Livestock and Livestock Products for the States and also for the United States (one volume).

Territories and Possessions.—Farms and Farm Property, Livestock and Livestock Products, and Crops (one volume).  
(Separate agricultural bulletins are available for Hawaii and Puerto Rico.)

Territories:  
Alaska  
Hawaii

Possessions:  
American Samoa  
Guam

Puerto Rico  
Virgin Islands of the United States

Irrigation of Agricultural Lands.—Statistics by Drainage Basins and by Counties for 20 Irrigation States and a Summary for the United States (one volume).

Twenty Separate State Maps Showing Irrigation by Drainage Basins.  
A Separate Composite Map Showing Irrigation by Drainage Basins.

Drainage of Agricultural Lands.—Statistics for 38 Drainage States with County Data for 38 States and a Summary for the United States (one volume).

A Separate Map of the United States Showing Location of Land in Drainage Enterprises for 38 States.

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# TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS

## INTRODUCTION

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# CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1940

## INTRODUCTION

This volume presents statistics on agriculture for the United States Territories of Alaska and Hawaii and for its island possessions of Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands of the United States. The most recent data for these areas were collected under the same authority which provided for the Sixteenth Decennial Census of the continental United States which was taken in 1940.<sup>1</sup> The separate reports which were prepared for each of the areas are bound together to comprise this volume. The statistics on agriculture for the continental United States and its political subdivisions are published in other volumes described on page IV.

Because of the varying units of land measurements and the extremely dissimilar types of agriculture—i. e., in regard to vegetation and animals—no consolidation of the numerical information has been attempted, among these scattered areas, except in the brief summary table contained in this introduction. Comparative data, when available from earlier censuses of agriculture, are presented for each area in its respective section of this volume. These censuses of agriculture were taken in conjunction with the censuses of population which are the sources given herein for the number of inhabitants.

A census of agriculture has not been taken in the Panama Canal Zone since the United States acquired sovereignty over the area under the terms of the treaty with the Republic of Panama signed November 18, 1903. In the Annual Report of the Governor of the Panama Canal for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1940, the following statement appears for revenues for the fiscal year 1939 from rentals of agricultural lands:

Rentals of agriculture land in the Canal Zone totaled \$10,660, as compared with \$10,668 for the preceding year. At the close of the fiscal year 1,000 licenses were in effect, covering 1,990 hectares of agricultural land within the Canal Zone. This is a reduction of 78 in the number of licenses under the previous fiscal year and a reduction in the area held under licenses of 184 hectares. This reduction is largely the result of the policy adopted in May 1935, providing that as a health measure no more licenses for agricultural land would be issued and that holdings under licenses previously granted cannot be sold or transferred.

In the same report, it is indicated that 59.64 square miles of the Canal Zone area was used for cattle pastures and 0.57 of a square mile was under lease for commercial farms.

Two other excerpts from that report read, as follows:

The operation of the Mink Dairy continued as in previous years. Milk production for the year totaled 445,696 gallons, as compared to 417,947 gallons in the preceding year, an increase of 27,749 gallons. Fresh milk was supplied the Army and Navy units stationed on the Isthmus in addition to employees and units of the Canal and Railroad organizations. Buildings and pastures were maintained in good condition by the dairy operating force.

The Canal Zone plant introduction gardens and experimental station were established in June 1923. The gardens which include greenhouses, nurseries, and experimental plantings, embrace approximately 125 acres of land, and are devoted to the propagation and cultivation of a wide variety of useful and ornamental plants from all parts of the world, primarily for the purpose of determining their adaptability and value under local soil and climatic conditions for the general propagation on the Isthmus.

Originally the experiment gardens were supported by rents from the agricultural land leases. However, due to a policy of gradually eliminating such leases in the interest of health and sanitation, the income from that source has materially decreased since.

<sup>1</sup> The census for the areas given herein, except Alaska, is that of April 1, 1940, the date of the Sixteenth Decennial Census in the United States. The Census of Alaska was taken as of October 1, 1939.

<sup>2</sup> The Act providing for the Fifteenth Decennial Census of the United States, approved June 18, 1929, read in part, as follows: "That a census of population, agriculture, industry, commerce, distribution, consumption, and mines shall be taken by the Director of the Census in the year 1930 and every ten years thereafter. The census herein provided for shall include each State, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico. A census of Guam, Samoa, and the Virgin Islands shall be conducted in the same year by the respective government of said islands and a census of the Panama Canal Zone by the Governor of the Canal Zone, all in accordance with plans prescribed or approved by the Director of the Census."

<sup>3</sup> A census of population was taken as of February 1, 1912, by the Department of Civil Administration of the Isthmus Canal Commission with the aid of two experts from the Bureau of the Census. The report of the Isthmus Canal Commission for that year indicates that a previous census of population had been taken as of June 25, 1903.

In 1920, 1930, and 1940 the population of the Canal Zone was enumerated in conjunction with the regular decennial censuses of the United States, the field work being done under the supervision of the Governor in accordance with plans prescribed by the Director of the Census.<sup>3</sup>

The Act providing for the Fifteenth Decennial Census did not authorize an enumeration to be made in the Philippine Islands. The Commonwealth of the Philippines, however, took an agricultural census as of January 1, 1939, along with a count of the population. The agricultural reports for that year were published in Philippine Census volumes II, Report by Provinces and III, General Reports, Census of Population and Agriculture, the first of these two volumes being a presentation of the data by provinces and the second being a summary by subjects. This census was taken and the results compiled for publication in accordance with plans developed by and under the supervision of an expert of the United States Bureau of the Census who had been employed for that purpose by the Philippine Government.

Several of the component reports comprising this volume present some information in regard to the acquisition of the areas, the governments, and the people. To bring each territory or island possession into perspective, a short résumé follows:

**Alaska.**—This Territory was acquired through purchase by the United States from Russia on March 30, 1867, but not organized until 1884 when it became a "District" governed by the laws of the State of Oregon. By Act of Congress approved August 24, 1912, Alaska became a Territory. The Territory is represented in the Congress by one Delegate, elected biennially, who sits in the House of Representatives, but has no vote. The Governor is appointed for four years by the President of the United States.

**Hawaii.**—The Hawaiian Islands celebrated in August 1928, the 150th anniversary of their discovery by Captain James Cook, the English navigator. In 1894, a Republic was proclaimed and, in accordance with the request of the people of Hawaii expressed through the Legislature of the Republic and a resolution of the United States Congress on July 6, 1898 (signed July 7 by President McKinley), the islands were on August 12, 1898, formally annexed to the United States. On June 14, 1900, they were constituted as the Territory of Hawaii. The Territory is represented in Congress by a Delegate elected biennially to the House of Representatives but he has no vote. The Governor is appointed for four years by the President of the United States.

**Guam.**—The Island of Guam is ruled by a Governor-Commandant, a naval officer appointed by the President of the United States. In him are combined the functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial powers of the government.

**Panama Canal Zone.**—By the Treaty of November 18, 1903, Panama granted to the United States in perpetuity the use, occupation, and control of a zone (Canal Zone) five miles wide on each side of the canal route and, within this zone, the exclusive right to exercise sovereign power and authority. For the needs of the Panama Canal other territory was granted, including certain islands in Panama Bay. The Canal Zone is under the authority of a Governor, appointed by the President of the United States. This area has no legislative body.

**Philippine Islands.**—These Islands, ceded by Spain to the United States by the treaty of peace concluded on April 11, 1899, form the largest island group of the Malay Archipelago. The Commonwealth of the Philippines is governed by a dual instrument drafted under the Tydings-McDuffie Act signed by the President of the United States on March 24, 1934, and accepted

# CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1940

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by the Philippine Legislature on May 1, 1934. That dual instrument consists of, firstly, a permanent Constitution drafted by a Filipino Constitutional Convention, and secondly an Ordinance governing the relations between the United States and the Commonwealth for a period of 10 years from November 15, 1935. When the Ordinance lapses (on July 4, 1946), the Commonwealth automatically takes over full sovereignty and becomes "The Republic of the Philippines." The Ordinance reserves to the United States some control over measures relating to national debt, foreign loans, currency, coinage, imports, exports, foreign relations, immigration, proposed amendments to the Constitution, as well as national defense. The Commonwealth is represented, without vote however, in the House of Representatives of the United States by a Resident Commissioner appointed by the President of the Commonwealth.

**Puerto Rico.**—Puerto Rico was ceded by Spain to the United States by the treaty of December 10, 1898 (ratified April 11, 1899). The name was changed from Porto Rico to Puerto Rico by an Act of Congress approved May 17, 1932. The executive power resides in a Governor appointed by the President of the United States. Puerto Rico is represented in the Congress of the United States by a Resident Commissioner elected by the people for a term of four years. This Commissioner, however, has no vote. While Puerto Rico has not the status of a territory, its form of government is similar to that of Alaska and Hawaii.

**American Samoa.**—These Islands are administered by a Governor-Commandant much the same as Guam. Native customs (not inconsistent with United States laws) are not changed without the consent of the people.

**Virgin Islands of the United States.**—On June 22, 1935, the President of the United States approved an Act of Congress to provide a Civil Government for the Virgin Islands of the United States, which is a new Organic Act of the Islands. This

Act provides that the executive power of the Virgin Islands of the United States and the municipalities thereof shall be fixed in the Governor and exercised under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. The local legislative powers are vested in a municipal council of St. Thomas and St. John, and in a municipal council of St. Croix. These Islands are not represented by a delegate or commissioner in the United States House of Representatives.

**Other possessions.**—The five Equatorial Islands of Jarvis, Baker, Howland, Canton, and Enderbury are under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. In order to maintain sovereignty of the United States and also to obtain certain meteorological data for possible future use in connection with the development of air routes to the Antipodes, a small colony of men has been established on each of the islands. These islands have scarcely any vegetation and all are devoid of drinking water and afford no means of subsistence. There are still other scattered island possessions of the United States which have little or no agricultural production.

Each of the separate reports which make up this volume carries explanatory material necessary to understand the method of enumeration and comparability of the data for the several censuses of the respective area. The Division of Territorial, Insular, and Foreign Statistics of the Bureau of the Census was responsible for the preparation of the Schedules, Instructions to enumerators, and for some preliminary publications. These early agricultural releases were issued under this arrangement for Alaska, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands of the United States. As a result of a reorganization, the responsibility for publication of agricultural data for the remaining territories and island possessions and for the final publication of agricultural data for all these areas was transferred to the Division of Agriculture of the Bureau of the Census.

POPULATION, FARMS, FARM ACREAGE, AND VALUE OF SPECIFIED FARM PROPERTY, FOR CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, OUTLYING TERRITORIES, AND SPECIFIED ISLAND POSSESSIONS: CENSUS OF 1940

ITEM	CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES	OUTLYING TERRITORIES AND SPECIFIED ISLAND POSSESSIONS					
		Territory of—		Island possessions of—			
		Alaska	Hawaii	Guam	Puerto Rico	American Samoa	Virgin Islands of the United States
Total population—number	131,689,275	72,824	425,330	22,290	1,969,255	12,908	34,989
Approximate land area—acres	1,905,351,920	265,481,800	4,099,840	1,205	2,255,694	176	84,480
Proportion in farms—percent	85.7	8.5	80.5	50.0	85.6	( <sup>3</sup> )	85.4
Farms—number	6,096,799	823	4,995	2,529	55,519	1,068	828
All land in farms—acres	1,060,852,374	1,775,752	2,485,848	64,899	1,895,874	( <sup>3</sup> )	55,219
Average size of farms—acres	174.0	2,150.3	497.5	25.7	34.0	( <sup>3</sup> )	66.7
Value of farms (land and buildings)—dollars	35,641,738,726	3,841,045	112,788,201	( <sup>3</sup> )	175,865,273	( <sup>3</sup> )	2,398,546
Buildings—dollars	10,405,435,796	2,140,007	17,829,188	( <sup>3</sup> )	10,585,645	( <sup>3</sup> )	771,021
Value of implements and machinery—dollars	3,060,187,388	576,924	15,894,842	( <sup>3</sup> )	8,444,906	( <sup>3</sup> )	112,754

<sup>1</sup> Square miles.

<sup>2</sup> Cuerdas. (A cuerda is equivalent to 0.9712 acre.)

<sup>3</sup> Not available.

<sup>4</sup> Establishments reporting agricultural activities.